

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
Caribbean Program
FY 2018 Summary of Projects**

In FY 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Caribbean Program, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), awarded funding to ten projects in six countries and two projects spanning multiple countries (in alphabetical order below), totaling \$1,083,851 and leveraging \$349,333 in additional matching funds.

New grants

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CAR1805

Award # F18AP00797

Establishment of a wet lab for the adaptive management of coral reef restoration in the southeastern Dominican Republic through a trained body of community technicians and volunteers. In partnership with *Centro de Estudios Costero Marinos/Fundación Dominicana de Estudios Marinos*. The purpose of this project is to support a conservation effort in the Dominican Republic's Southeastern Reefs Marine Sanctuary by reducing threats to coral reefs and enhancing their resilience to adapt to their changing environment. Coral reefs, along with mangroves and seagrass beds, are key ecosystems for the conservation of marine flora and fauna. This project is intended to conserve the coral reef ecosystem by addressing both natural and anthropogenic threats such as pollution, sedimentation, coastal development, overfishing, sea level rise, thermal stress, and lack of community capacity to enforce fishing and tourism regulations. Proposed project activities include: (1) designing and implementing an adaptive management protocol, which will expand and increase the efficacy of coral conservation/restoration efforts; (2) establishing a wet lab for coral asexual and sexual reproduction and restoration strategies of key reef species, such as *Acropora cervicornis*, *A. palmata*, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*, and *Orbicella faveolata*; (3) strengthening relations with public-private partners for effective reef management, by training a body of volunteers as lab technicians and tour guides; and (4) increasing the reach of the project by sharing and replicating results at the local, national, and international level.

USFWS: \$67,716

Leveraged Funds: \$97,248

CAR1808

Award # F18AP00935

Establishing a biosecurity program to protect the critically endangered Ricord's Iguana and other native species on Cabritos Island, Lake Enriquillo, Dominican Republic. In partnership with the *Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH Conservación)*. The goal of the project is to sustain previous conservation actions, which included the eradication and removal of feral donkeys and cats, taken over the last four years by the applicant to protect the critically endangered Ricord's iguana and the vulnerable rhinoceros iguana on Cabritos Island, a salt-water lake below sea level, which is part of the Lake Enriquillo and Cabritos Island National Park. These threatened iguanas survive as four populations, with three in the southwest of the

Dominican Republic and one in Haiti. Both species are declining in the Caribbean due to invasive species and habitat loss. In partnership with the Dominican Republic's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, the park's director and wardens, *SOH Conservación* will: (1) train park rangers on how to implement biosecurity measures to avoid the recolonization of invasive species; (2) develop a biosecurity plan to prevent and/or early detect invasive species, establish permanent monitoring protocols, and educate visitors on the ecological and economic costs of invasive species; and (3) implement an educational and outreach campaign aimed at local communities, boat operators, and tourists about the devastating consequences of introducing invasive species and measures on how to prevent the recolonization of invasive species.

USFWS: \$50,595

Leveraged Funds: \$42,368

CAR1816

Award # F18AP00927

Conservation of Hispaniola's rock iguanas through habitat restoration and improved surveillance of key sites, captive facility management, and education. In partnership with *Grupo Jaragua*. This project supports the conservation of the Ricord's and rhinoceros iguanas (*Cyclura ricordii* and *C. cornuta*) in their key habitats in the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve, Dominican Republic through habitat restoration, improved monitoring and surveillance, captive facilities management, and education. The goal of the project is to ensure these iguanas thrive in their remaining key habitats by addressing the impacts from illegal charcoal making, unsustainable agriculture, and poaching. Specific activities include: (1) restoring 150 hectares with native and preferred iguana plants with the involvement of local communities; (2) improving species and habitat monitoring and surveillance with the support of local community members and drone imagery; (3) holding a training workshop to strengthen iguana management in captive facilities across the country to improve the welfare of captive individuals, reduce species hybridization, and avoid contributing to the invasive green iguana expansion; and (4) implementing an educational campaign to create national pride and awareness about these magnificent lizards, the services they provide, and the threats they face.

USFWS: \$97,063

Leveraged Funds: \$44,854

CAR1820

Award # F18AP00931

Conservation of the ecosystems of the Morro de Monte Cristi National Park by strengthening its management, including community members and fishermen, and the promotion of ecotourism. In partnership with *Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH Conservación)*. This project supports conservation efforts in El Morro de Montecristi National Park by strengthening the monitoring and patrolling skills of park rangers via hands-on training and by empowering coastal communities to become stewards of the natural resources they depend on. This project is aimed at conserving dry forests, mangroves, coral reefs and the species that depend upon them from illegal logging, unsustainable agriculture, detrimental fishing and touristic practices, and pollution runoff. Proposed project activities include: (1) holding training workshops for park rangers in protected area management, environmental legislation, use of GPS equipment, and ecosystem services; (2) developing a patrolling protocol in consultation with park staff and community representatives aimed at reducing the poaching of endangered species, illegal logging, forest fires, and unsustainable fishing practices; (3) providing training in the operation of a drone for coastal patrols and species monitoring; (4) purchasing basic monitoring

and patrolling equipment for park rangers; (5) conducting an environmental education and outreach program for at least 700 local community members; (6) designing and building an interpretative trail for visitors; (7) delivering an environmental interpretation course for local guides; and (8) organizing meetings with two local fishermen associations on sustainable fishing and fisheries management.

USFWS: \$49,770

Leveraged Funds: n/a

HAITI

CAR1802

Award # F18AP00781

Strengthening local conservation and management initiatives for the Three Bays Marine Managed Area - Haiti. In partnership with *Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine*. The goal of this project is to support the protection, management, and conservation efforts targeted at the local fisheries, mangrove forests, and coral reefs within the newly created Three Bays Marine Managed Area (AP3B) in northeastern Haiti, by strengthening local community stakeholder capacities to undertake these initiatives. The AP3B is threatened by the cutting of mangroves for fuelwood and illegal charcoal production, damaging fishing practices, coral exploitation for construction material, and marine pollution. Proposed project activities include: (1) increasing the species and ecosystems monitoring and patrolling capacities of the newly formed and community-led Environmental Surveillance Agents (ASE); (2) launching two pilot apiculture business as a supplemental and an environmentally friendly income generating activity for local communities, resulting in a reduction of illegal charcoal production, over-fishing, and coral extraction; and (3) engaging 500 local coastal community stakeholder groups, especially women, youth, fishermen, farmers, and charcoal producers in natural resource stewardship and conservation via environmental education workshops and field activities.

USFWS: \$98,500

Leveraged Funds: n/a

JAMAICA

CAR1801

Award # F18AP00925

Management and preservation of the Jamaican iguana. In partnership with the International Iguana Foundation. This project supports the conservation of the critically endangered Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*), in the Hellshire Hills of Jamaica by establishing a comprehensive management strategy. The Hellshire Hills are one of the last significant expanses of tropical dry forest in the Caribbean and make up part of the Portland Bight Protected Area, home to a variety of other threatened species. This project is intended to ensure the survival of the Jamaican iguana and its ecosystem by building on the species' current conservation program. This species exists only within a small core area of the Hellshire Hills and is threatened by invasive mammals. Proposed project activities include: (1) an in-depth exploration and evaluation of the area outside of the core zone, resulting in the designation of a buffer zone surrounding the core area; (2) an expansion and revitalization of the species' headstart program, resulting in greater and more rapid output and an increased wild population growth rate; and (3) a revised iguana monitoring program, allowing for a rigorous assessment of the population during the implementation of improvements and into the future.

USFWS: \$91,740

Leveraged Funds: \$46,250

CAR1812

Award # F18AP00933

Leveraging enhanced SMART marine capacity and implementation globally to strengthen, monitor, and evaluate marine protected area management effectiveness in Jamaica. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This project supports conservation efforts in Jamaica by building advanced capacity in marine protected area management and enforcement, in addition to creating a global foundation for advanced training in Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) technology for expanded implementation in the marine environment. More than 250,000 Jamaicans rely on fishing as their sole income generating activity, however under the current levels of exploitation, fisheries are unsustainable. This project will contribute to the conservation of critical mangrove, seagrass, and coral reef ecosystems, as well as important spawning and nursery grounds, by addressing the impacts of damaging fishing practices, poaching, and overfishing. Specific activities include: (1) development of a comprehensive, standardized SMART marine training module to enhance the capacity of marine conservation practitioners globally; (2) strengthening capacity of government partners, non-governmental organizations, and community groups in Jamaica to implement a SMART-based adaptive management approach to the operation, monitoring, and evaluation of marine protected areas; and (3) supporting the implementation of SMART at the East Portland Fish Sanctuary as a demonstration site for Jamaica, with subsequent, hands-on application in other selected protected areas in Jamaica.

USFWS: \$111,298

Leveraged Funds: \$9,122

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

CAR1821

Award # F18AP00807

Empowering community participation in marine protected area (MPA) monitoring and stewardship in the Grenadines. In partnership with Sustainable Grenadines. This project aims at reducing threats to coral reefs and reef-related ecosystems in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada by building the capacity of managers of seven marine protected areas (MPAs) and enabling them to lead buffer communities in monitoring, adaptive management, and stewardship actions for these ecosystems. Proposed project activities include: (1) training MPA managers belonging to the Grenadines Network of MPAs on community outreach and education; (2) establishing pilot Community Researcher Programs in three MPAs, including training at least 15 community members in scuba diving, coral health monitoring, emergency first response, safe navigation and communication skills, and partnering with private sector stakeholders such as dive shops and yacht charter companies to leverage in-kind support for these programs; (3) engaging the community researchers in conducting coral health surveys throughout the Grenadines Network of MPAs; (4) planning adaptive management responses by the MPA management authorities and partners; (5) engaging the community researchers and MPA managers in sharing the project results and lessons learned, and promoting coral reef stewardship among key stakeholders and the general public.

USFWS: \$158,330

Leveraged Funds: n/a

ST/ KITTS AND NEVIS

CAR1809

Award # F18AP00794

Building capacity for young conservation leaders to protect biodiversity of The Narrows Marine Managed Area of St. Kitts and Nevis. In partnership with the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. This project supports the conservation of The Narrows, a biodiversity-rich marine ecosystem between the Caribbean islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, by training future leaders in harm reduction and conservation behavior change methods. This project is intended to conserve marine species (coral reefs, lobster, conch, diverse fish species, resident birds, and marine mammals) and their habitats (seagrass beds, rookeries, and shorelines) by developing a collaborative conservation plan that leverages efforts of local government and non-government organizations in addressing unsustainable tourism, uncontrolled development, and plastic pollution. Proposed project activities include: (1) delivering two learning-by-doing workshops to provide training in leadership, harm reduction, and conservation behavior change to local, young conservation advocates; (2) implementing three participatory workshops to identify key stakeholders and develop a collaborative conservation plan for The Narrows, with initial efforts to reduce threats from plastic pollution; and (3) implementing an outreach workshop to identify the most effective communication outlets to implement the conservation plan for The Narrows and share the lessons learned with other institutions in the Caribbean.

USFWS: \$54,122

Leveraged Funds: \$2,300

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CAR1814

Award # F18AP00936

A consumer behavior change campaign and intelligence-led conservation capacity assessment to address the illegal wildlife trade in Trinidad and Tobago. In partnership with the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation. The purpose of this project is to reduce the illegal trade of exotic pets and bushmeat from South America by developing a behavior change coalition and campaign, building government capacity to implement intelligence-led conservation activities, and establishing a baseline data for illegal wildlife consumption in Trinidad and Tobago. This project is intended to conserve and protect endangered tropical forest species in South America (macaws, parrots, monkeys, among others) from poaching and trafficking. Proposed project activities include: (1) a training workshop on the illegal wildlife trade and social marketing for local organizations; (2) social marketing and behavior change research with illegal exotic pet consumers and sellers; (3) development of a marketing plan and detailed action plans to address structural barriers to behavior change; (4) a training workshop on intelligence-led conservation for law enforcement agencies; (5) an intelligence-led conservation capacity assessment aimed at enforcement personnel from the Forestry Division, Customs, and Coast Guard; and (6) a baseline assessment of illegal wildlife consumption in Trinidad and Tobago.

USFWS: \$104,728

Leveraged Funds: \$49,600

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – EASTERN CARIBBEAN

CAR1804

Award # F18AP00796

Combatting the surging illegal trade of endangered reptiles in the Eastern Caribbean. In partnership with Fauna & Flora International. This project supports the conservation of endangered endemic reptiles from the Lesser Antilles (Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados) for the international pet trade. The purpose is to reduce the illegal collection and trafficking of endemic and threatened reptiles from the Lesser Antilles to the United States, Europe and Japan, by increasing the capacity of local agencies to detect and prevent illegal activities and enforce laws, and by building public support to combat wildlife trafficking. The project conserves the Union Island gecko, Saint Lucia whiptail, Saint Lucia iguana, Grenadines iguana, Barbados leaf-toed gecko, and other threatened endemics by addressing the impacts of the rising, unsustainable, and illegal collection of wild reptiles for the international pet trade. Grant funds will support: (1) establishing wildlife crime surveillance in sites with exploited and endangered reptile populations; (2) streamlining the collection, management, analysis, and use of patrol and wildlife data; (3) training staff to address capacity gaps of agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement; (4) conducting community engagement campaigns to build national pride in native reptiles and to support combating wildlife trafficking; and (5) exchanging information, methods, and lessons learned, and strengthening cooperation to combat the trafficking of reptiles.

USFWS: \$99,988

Leveraged Funds: \$44,387

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES – GRENADA AND ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

CAR1823

Award # F18AP00929

Conservation of key offshore island reserves. In partnership with Environmental Protection in the Caribbean. This project supports biodiversity conservation of the transboundary Grenadines archipelago of the nations of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada by building local capacity for advocacy, outreach, and management in order to reduce poaching and habitat degradation. The project conserves the wildlife and habitats of offshore island reserves by addressing the impacts of burning and overgrazing of habitats and the poaching of seabirds. Specific activities include: (1) conducting classroom and field training for 20 enforcement agency officers and Grenadines Volunteer Patrol members to increase enforcement and outreach capabilities for protection of island reserves and wildlife; (2) developing a community-based conservation management plan for offshore islands and begin implementation for long-term conservation of habitats and wildlife; (3) carrying out community outreach actions which celebrate local wildlife and explore conservation threats such as poaching and burning; and (4) deploying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to establish geo-referenced aerial imagery baseline data on island habitats and seabird nesting populations to track changes over time.

USFWS: \$100,001

Leveraged Funds: \$13,204